

REMARKS**Amendments to the Claims**

Applicants have amended claims 4 and 7, cancelled claims 8-19 and added claim 20. The claim amendments do not add any new matter. Support for claim 4 can be found throughout the specification, e.g., on page 16, lines 19-20 and page 17, lines 16-20. Support for claim 20 can be found throughout the specification and in original claim 8. Claim 7 was amended to convert it from an independent claim to a dependent claim.

Applicants have cancelled claims 8-19 which were directed to non-elected subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuing application or take such other appropriate action as deemed necessary to protect the subject matter of the non-elected inventions. Applicants do not hereby abandon or waive any rights in the non-elected inventions.

Election in Response to Restriction Requirement

Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, the claims in Group III (claim 4), drawn to a method for promoting axonal growth comprising treating a neuron with an NF-AT agonist, wherein the agonist is calcineurin or an agent that activates or upregulates the expression of calcineurin for continued examination in this application.

Applicants traverse this restriction requirement on the basis that the claims in Groups I-VI (claims 2-6) are closely related. The claims in Groups I-VI all share the same class and subclass, and are directed to methods for promoting axonal growth comprising treating a neuron with an NF-AT agonist as recited in claim 1. They only differ in the way that the NF-AT agonists are characterized. Accordingly, the claims in Groups I-VI can be searched simultaneously without undue burden to the Examiner. Under the circumstances, a species election among the claims in Groups I-VI appears to be more proper.


The Examiner admits that claim 1 links the inventions of Groups I-VI and states that “[t]he restriction requirement among the linked inventions is subject to the non-allowance of the linking claim.” Accordingly, the Examiner admits that the subject matter of claim 1 will be examined along with the elected invention. Further, the Examiner states that upon allowance of

the linking claim, "the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claims depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claims(s) will be entitled to examination." Accordingly, if the claims presented in this Amendment are not examined together, Applicants will request that the non-elected claims be rejoined upon allowance of the linking claim.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. SUPP-P01-007.

Dated: January 10, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Gloria Fuentes

Registration No.: 47,580
ROPES & GRAY LLP
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020-1104
(212) 596-9000
(212) 596-9090 (Fax)
Attorneys/Agents For Applicant